

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended, and new claims 25-32 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. The support for the new claims and claim amendments are found in at least paragraphs [0036] through [0040] in the Applicants' specification. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection**

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being allegedly anticipated by Yao. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As discussed in more detail below, Applicants believe that amendments to the independent claims have made the previous rejection moot.

The features of Applicants' amended claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 recite a method for automatically suppressing silence frame(s) from a stream of media regardless of the channel latency of a communication channel.

This is in contrast to Yao, which generally discusses dropping an entire data frame to alleviate the problem of communication channel latency of a communication channel. Col. 3, line 5 – Col. 5, line 40. In other words, complete data frames are dropped in a transmitter at a fixed, predetermined rate, Col. 3, lines 5-8, are dropped at different rates depending upon the quality of the communication channel, Col. 3, line 38 – Col. 4, line 35, or depending upon a queue threshold, Col. 4, lines 35-40. While some of these data frames may have no information in them, Yao discusses the general concept of producing and dropping a low rate frame which may have "little" information in it. Col. 8, line 62 – Col. 9, line 3. Therefore, Yao simply drops entire data frames when there is a problem of communication channel latency for a communication channel. Yao does not specifically automatically suppress silence frames

regardless of the communication channel latency as claimed by the Applicants. Therefore Yao fails to teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19.

**Dependent Claims**

Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-32 depend directly or ultimately from, and include all the subject matter of, claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding the independent claims as well as the additionally recited features found in the claims.

Because independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 are believed to be allowable, Applicant has not argued or otherwise relied on independent patentability of dependent claims, but reserves the right to do so in this or any subsequent proceeding.

## CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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